STUDY OVERVIEW

The 16th Street NW Transit Priority Planning Study (the Study) seeks to improve transit performance and reliability with the study area: 16th Street NW between H Street and Arkansas Avenue. The 16th Street line currently serves more than 20,000 bus riders each weekday, making it one of the highest in the region for ridership; more than half of the people traveling on 16th Street in the peak are bus riders. However, the line suffers from reliability issues and overcrowding, resulting in bus bunching, pass-bys, and slow travel speeds. Motorists also experience significant queuing during rush hours. In addition, 16th Street often serves as a barrier between neighborhoods. Pedestrian crossings are difficult, especially at several complex intersections, and east-west connectivity is limited for vehicles.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Based on input from the public at the outset of the Study, the following goals and objectives were developed:

GOALS

» Improve travel for persons using public transit;
» Develop alternatives based on public and stakeholder input; and
» Evaluate alternatives in terms of their benefits to transit users, possible impacts on users of other transportation modes, and safety.

OBJECTIVES

» Improve transit service reliability and travel times by identifying and addressing sources of potential issues (e.g., traffic congestion, signal timing, passenger boarding delays, bus capacity, number and location of bus stops, and/or parking enforcement);
» Prioritize transit while maintaining operations for those traveling by other modes;
» Improve passenger comfort and safety (e.g., overcrowding, street crossings, and bus stop amenities);
» Accommodate current unmet passenger demand for public transit service; and
» Develop an implementation plan that includes cost estimates.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The Recommended Alternative is a combination of improvements from each of the three alternatives, refined based on public and stakeholder input. Implementation of the Recommended Alternative has been broken down into three phases: (1) less than 18 months, (2) 2 to 4 years, and (3) 4 or more years. DDOT and WMATA are both leading elements of the implementation and will coordinate with other agencies, including the Metropolitan Police Department and Department of Public Works. DDOT anticipates that the bus lanes will be open and operational in 2 to 4 years, coinciding with the start of off-board fare payment and all-door boarding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop consolidation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 3 southbound locations (Newton, Lamont, and V Streets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 5 northbound locations (L, Q, V, Lamont, and Newton Streets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fare-side bus stop expansion: 2 southbound locations</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Harvard and M Streets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocate southbound Spring Place bus stop north to Spring Road to improve pedestrian safety</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upgrade stops to WMATA zone lengths</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus lanes Full length, extended peak period peak direction: 7:00 am - 10:00 am southbound 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm northbound</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSIT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS (Any service changes would require a future public involvement process led by WMATA)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase limited stop service (may include converting some local bus trips to limited stops)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transition to simpler patterns</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running and recovery time added to schedule</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fleet mix upgraded with low-floor and articulated buses</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-board fare payment All buses, all stops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All-door boarding All buses, all stops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAFFIC OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transit signal priority (TSP) at 18 locations configured for headway-based service</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak period parking restrictions extended to 7:00 - 10:00 am (from 9:30 am) and 4:00 - 7:30 pm (from 6:30 pm). No parking from Arkansas Avenue to M Street during AM and PM peak periods.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking restrictions extended to 7:00 - 10:00 am (from 9:30 am) and 4:00 - 7:30 pm (from 6:30 pm). No parking from Arkansas Avenue to M Street during AM and PM peak periods.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pedestrian safety improvements, including at Arkansas Avenue, Sacred Heart Way, and Mount Pleasant Street</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop amenity and access improvements</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated enforcement Enforcement of driving and parking in bus lanes</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM peak period southbound left turn restriction at W Street</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 16th Street consists of the S1, S2, and S4 local routes and the S9 MetroExtra limited stop route.
Buses are typically moving only about half of the total trip time. The remaining half is split between the time per passenger to board the S9 route, which DDOT used these alternatives to test which types and combinations of improvements would best address the issues identified through data analysis and public and stakeholder involvement. DDOT held a community kick-off meeting in March 2015, followed by four Citizens Advisory Group meetings throughout the year, four “pop-up style” public engagement events at high-volume bus stops along the corridor in October 2015, and a final public meeting in January 2016.

Dwell time is the time spent loading and unloading passengers at the bus stop.

**PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Over the course of the 12-month Study, DDOT collected and analyzed data on the existing conditions of the corridor, developed three alternatives, and selected a recommended alternative, all based on public and stakeholder involvement. DDOT held a community kick-off meeting in March 2015, followed by four Citizens Advisory Group meetings throughout the year, four “pop-up style” public engagement events at high-volume bus stops along the corridor in October 2015, and a final public meeting in January 2016.

**PLANNING PROCESS**

- Identify Issues and Collect Data
- Develop Alternatives
- Evaluate Alternatives
- Select Recommended Alternative

**DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

In spring and summer 2015, DDOT undertook extensive data collection and analysis to better understand the existing conditions along the corridor, including transit service, traffic operations, safety, and pedestrian access. DDOT identified the following key issues regarding transit travel times and reliability:

- Buses are typically moving only about half of the total trip time. The remaining half is split between dwell time and time spent waiting at traffic signals.
- Buses arrive already bunched to the study area and buses are bunched throughout the day, including the Early Night period (7 to 11 PM). This is in part due to the multiple service patterns operated along the S line and because bus trip times are longer than the scheduled trip times.
- The travel speed slowdown in the AM and PM Peak extends past the peak periods. Midday and Early Night speeds are slow too, in part because of off-peak parking along the corridor.
- The time per passenger to board the S9 route, which uses low-floor buses, is lower than for the local routes. The S4 is the most crowded route, but maximum loads are high on all routes, which contributes to longer dwell time and pass-bys.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Three alternatives were created to directly address the issues identified through data analysis and public input. Each includes a combination of infrastructure, transit service, and traffic operations improvements. DDOT used these alternatives to test which types and combinations of improvements would best address the Study’s goals and objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPROVEMENT</th>
<th>ALTERNATIVE 1</th>
<th>ALTERNATIVE 2</th>
<th>ALTERNATIVE 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Building removals and relocations: S9</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 4 southbound locations (Newton, Lomax, 5 Streets, and Riggs Place)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 3 northbound locations (C St, Lomax and Newton Streets)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Far-side bus stop expansion: 2 southbound locations (Harvard and M Street)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Replaces southbound Spring Place bus stop north to Spring Road to improve pedestrian safety.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Upgrade bus stops to WMATA zone lengths.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRANSPORT SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Full-length, both directions 7:00 am - 10:00 pm</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Full-length, southbound peak period peak direction: 7:00 am - 10:00 am on southbound 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm on northbound</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRAFFIC OPERATIONS IMPROVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Transit signal priority (TSP) at 15 planned locations</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Peak period parking restrictions extended to 7:00 - 10:00 pm (from 9:30 am and 4:00 - 7:00 pm (from 6:30 pm)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Southbound inbound lane extended to 7:00 - 10:00 am (from 9:30 am)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pedestrian safety improvements; including at: L Street; Harvard/Columbia; Mount Pleasant</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Bus stop amenity and access improvements</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Correct parking restrictions northbound between L and W Streets to prohibited PM peak parking.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Work with downtown hotels on tee and loading area reallocation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Automated parking enforcement on buses</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Dedicated towing</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Remove middle parking</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Left-turn restrictions: - Southbound at Irving Street - Northbound at Missouri Pleasant Street</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Southbound left turn lane separation and advance signage at W Street</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Peak-hour signal timing extended for north-south traffic through middle (pending further analysis as part of the ongoing citywide Traffic Signal Optimization effort)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The objectives of the 16th Street Transit Priority Study include improving transit service reliability and travel times, while also improving overall passenger comfort and safety. Bus stop consolidation is one way to improve overall bus travel times, as the buses spend less time at bus stops. Currently average bus travel speeds, including time spent at bus stops, are below 10 mph for much of the day along 16th Street NW.

**WHICH STOPS ARE PROPOSED FOR CONSOLIDATION?**

There are currently 16 southbound bus stops and 18 northbound bus stops within the 2.7-mile study corridor, which averages to about a stop every 1/6th of a mile. As part of the Recommended Alternative, DDOT is proposing to consolidate three southbound stops and five northbound stops, which would average to about a stop every 1/5th of a mile. The stops proposed for consolidation are:

**SOUTHBOUND**
- Newton Street
- Lamont Street
- V Street

**NORTHBOUND**
- Newton Street
- Lamont Street
- V Street
- Q Street
- L Street

These stops were selected for two reasons:

1. They are generally located within one block of an adjacent stop; and
2. They are not S9 MetroExtra service stops (S9 stops are located at major cross streets and are classified as enhanced stops under WMATA's guidelines, indicating a higher level of customer amenities).

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CONSOLIDATION?**

With the consolidation of these stops, DDOT conservatively estimates travel time savings of 1 to 1.5 minutes per bus trip. This is about 15 to 25% of the total travel time savings estimated under the Recommended Alternative for the S1, S2, and S4 routes. Bus stop consolidations will also enable DDOT to allow other curbside uses, such as parking or loading zones, which are not possible today because of the bus stops.

**WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF CONSOLIDATION?**

DDOT recognizes that bus stop consolidation will increase the distance that some pedestrians need to walk in order to access the bus. In addition, many of the adjacent stops are already crowded with people waiting for the bus. To address these concerns, DDOT will work to improve access to the adjacent bus stops and will install additional shelters, expand waiting areas, and improve pedestrian safety at the stops. These improvements will be in place before a stop is consolidated.

**WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK ON BUS STOP CONSOLIDATION**

Please inform DDOT if there are additional bus stop or safety improvements that would assist pedestrians in accessing the next closest bus stop by emailing Megan Kanagy at megan.kanagy@dc.gov.
Improvements Proposed

Additional waiting area.

Relocate street furniture to create additional waiting area.

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at P Street. May require widening sidewalk to create additional waiting area.

Install additional waiting area.

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance Between

Adjacent Stop

Adjacent Stop

Adjacent Stop

Adjacent Stop

Adjacent Stop

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Improvements Proposed

Additional waiting area.

Relocate street furniture to create additional waiting area.

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at Park Road.

Widen sidewalk to create additional waiting area. Install additional waiting area.

Improvements Proposed

Additional waiting area.

Relocate street furniture to create additional waiting area.

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at M Street and N Street stops: 1/4 mile.

Install second shelter at Park Road.

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Improvements Proposed

Additional waiting area.

Relocate street furniture to create additional waiting area.

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at M Street and N Street stops: 1/4 mile.

Install second shelter at Park Road.

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at M Street and N Street stops: 1/4 mile.

Install second shelter at Park Road.

Approximate Distance Between

Approximate Distance to Closest Adjacent Stop

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Stop Proposed for Consolidation:

Install second shelter at M Street and N Street stops: 1/4 mile.

Install second shelter at Park Road.
January 21, 2015

SPRING PLACE BUS STOP RELOCATION

As part of the 16th Street NW Transit Priority Planning Study, DDOT evaluated several options to improve pedestrian safety at 16th Street and Spring Place. Currently, the southbound bus stop is near the intersection of Spring Place, which is an unsignalized intersection and does not have a marked crosswalk across 16th Street. The northbound stop is near Spring Road, which is signalized and has a marked crosswalk across 16th Street. Pedestrians trying to access the southbound bus stop sometimes cross 16th Street at Spring Place, rather than using the marked crosswalk at Spring Road.

Unfortunately, this situation cannot be improved simply by striping a crosswalk across 16th Street at Spring Place. Doing so would create an even more unsafe situation than exists today. Based on a rigorous body of safety research, uncontrolled marked crosswalks (crosswalks without a traffic signal) on multi-lane, high volume arterial streets, like 16th Street, create a significantly higher probability of a pedestrian being struck compared with leaving it unmarked.

Given that simply striping a crosswalk at Spring Place would be unsafe, three additional options were examined, as shown below.

OPTIONS

- **Preferred Option**
- **Considered Option**
- **Existing Bus Stop**
- **Proposed Bus Stop**

**Install a High-Intensity Activated Crosswalk (HAWK) beacon and stripe a crosswalk**

- When a pedestrian activates the HAWK beacon, the beacon would stop traffic on 16th Street to allow the pedestrian to cross.
- Spring Place is too close to Spring Road to install a HAWK beacon. Spring Place is approximately 230’ from Spring Road, which is under the 300’ minimum spacing.

**Relocate the southbound bus stop about 175’ north to just south of Spring Road**

- The relocated bus stop would be closer to the signalized crossing at Spring Road, but could result in a longer walk to access the bus stop for some pedestrians.
- The sidewalk would need to be widened at the new location to accommodate both bus shelters at the current stop.

**Install a traffic signal and stripe a crosswalk**

Spring Place does not meet the warrant criteria for the installation of a traffic signal. The warrant criteria include vehicle volumes, pedestrian volumes, and the number of crashes, among other factors.